

8485a.doc

CLAIMS

- Sub B1 > 1. A connecting means adapted to releasably fix a first element and a second element, the connecting means including a locking means movable by remote activation means between a locked position in which the first element is locked to the second element and an unlocked position in which the first element is released from the second element, characterised in that there is no permanent material connection (as herein defined) between the connecting means and the remote activation means.
2. The connecting means of claim 1, wherein the locking means is a locking pin disposed in a channel with a base and deformable sides and the locking pin is adapted to be moved within the channel by the remote activation means towards or away from the base.
3. The connecting means of claim 1, wherein the locking means is rotatable between a locked position and an unlocked position.
- Sub B2 > 4. The connecting means of claim 2, wherein the locking pin, the channel and the base are of indefinite length.
5. The connecting means of claim 2, wherein there are two locking pins, each disposed in a channel with a base and deformable sides.
- Sub A > 6. The connecting means of claim 4 or 5, wherein the connecting means is flexible.
7. The connecting means of claim 1, wherein the connecting means provides for adjustment of the first element relatively to the second element in one, two or three dimensions.
8. The connecting means of claim 1, wherein the connecting means provides for rotational adjustment of the first element relatively to the second element.
- Sub B3 > 9. The connecting means of claim 1, wherein the remote activation means is adapted to move the connecting means by the use of energy chosen from the following group: magnetic force, electromagnetic force, electromagnetic induction, high frequency heating and radio waves.

8485a.doc

10. The connecting means of claim 1, which further includes signal means adapted to indicate whether the first element is locked to the second element.
11. The connecting means of claim 1, which further includes signal means adapted to indicate whether the first element is released from the second element.
12. The connecting means of claim 1, which further includes means for reporting damage or stress caused to the connecting means.
13. The connecting means of claim 1, which further includes encryption.
14. A method of releasably fixing a first element and a second element via a connecting means, the method including the step of applying remote activation means to fix the first element to the second element, the connecting means being movable by the remote activation means to a locked position in which the first element is fixed to the second element, characterised in that the connecting means is movable by the or another remote activation means to an unlocked position in which the first element is released from the second element and further characterised in that there is no permanent material connection (as herein defined) between the remote activation means and the connecting means.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the first element is aligned with the second element before the remote activating means is applied to fix the first element to the second element.
16. The method of claim 14, wherein movement of the connecting means to the locked position or to the unlocked position causes no mark on or damage to the first element or the second element.
17. The method of claim 14, wherein the first element is fixed to more than one second element.
18. The method of claim 14, wherein the second element is fixed to more than one first element.
19. The method of claim 14, wherein a plurality of first elements is fixed to a plurality of second elements.

8485a.doc

Sub A2

20. The method of claim 17 or 19, wherein the second elements are not identical.
21. The method of claim 18 or 20, wherein the first elements are not identical.
22. The method of claim 14, wherein the connecting means includes a female connector attached to the first element and a male connector, adapted to cooperate with a female connector, attached to the second element.
23. The method of claim 14, which includes the subsequent step of applying the or another remote activation means to release the first element from the second element.
24. The connecting means of claim 1 which includes first attachment means adapted to attach the connecting means to the first element.
25. A panel and connecting means combination, the connecting means being as claimed in claim 24, the panel representing the first element and having a pair of opposed faces and a plurality of edges, wherein the panel has second attachment means adapted to co-operate with the first attachment means to facilitate attachment of the panel with the connecting means.
26. The panel and connecting means combination of claim 25, wherein the first attachment means is a tongue and the second attachment means is a groove formed in an edge of the panel.
27. A method of fixing a first element and a second element via a connecting means, the method including the steps of:
- (a) locating the first element relatively to the second element in a chosen position;
 - (b) maintaining the chosen position by magnetic force; and
 - (c) applying remote activation means comprising radio frequency heating means to the connecting means inserted between the first and second elements, the connecting means being adhesive curable by radio frequency heating.
28. The method of claim 27, wherein the first element is a metal stud and the second element is one or more panels.

8485aa.doc

29. The method of claim 27 which includes the further step of releasing the magnetic force after cure of the adhesive.
30. A connecting means adapted to adjust the location of a first element relatively to a second element spaced from the first element, the connecting means including an arm extending through the space between the first element and the second element and being pivotally attached to the first element at a first attachment point and to the second element by a second attachment point, characterised in that the arm is adapted to pivot at the first and second attachment points, thereby reducing the space between the first and second elements, upon application of remote activation means and further characterised in that there is no permanent material connection (as herein defined) between the connecting means and the remote activation means.
31. A method of adjusting the location of a first element relatively to a second element spaced from the first element, the method including the step of applying remote activation means to cause a connecting means as claimed in claim 30 to reduce the space between the first and second elements.
32. A method of adjusting the location of a first element relatively to a second element spaced from the first element, the method including the step of applying remote activation means to cause a plurality of connecting means, each as claimed in claim 30, to reduce the space between the first and second elements.
33. A first panel adapted for releasable connection to a second panel by a connecting means, the connecting means including a locking means, the locking means movable by remote activation means between a locked position in which the first panel is locked to the second panel and an unlocked position in which the first panel is released from the second panel, there being no permanent material connection (as herein defined) between the connecting means and the remote activation means, wherein each panel having a pair of opposed faces, the first panel having on one face a plurality of rows of protrusions adapted to be received in a set of recesses arranged in a plurality of rows on one face of the second panel.
34. The first panel of claim 33, wherein the protrusions are nodules and the recesses are pits.

8485aa.doc

35. A first panel adapted for releasable connection to a second panel by a first panel adapted for releasable connection to a second panel by a connecting means, the connecting means including a locking means movable by remote activation means between a locked position in which the first panel is locked to the second panel and an unlocked position in which the first panel is released from the second panel, there being no permanent material connection (as herein defined) between the connecting means and the remote activation means, wherein each panel has a pair of opposed faces, the first panel having on one face a plurality of protrusions being ribs, adapted to be received in recesses being channels on one face of the second panel.
36. ~~The second panel defined in any one of claims 33 to 35.~~
37. A method of manufacturing an element which is intended for connection with a second element, the first element incorporating first means to facilitate connection of the first element with the second element, the method including the steps of depositing discrete amounts of settable material on a surface of the element and rotating the element through 180° to permit the material to set under the influence of gravity.
38. The method of claim 37, wherein the material is further treated to effect setting.
39. ~~The method of claim 37 substantially as herein described with reference to figures 53 and 54.~~
40. The connecting means of claim 1, wherein the connecting means is capable of providing a report relating to one or more of the following:
- a) whether the first element is fixed to the second element;
 - b) whether the first element is released from the second element;
 - c) whether the connecting means has been damaged.
41. ~~The connecting means of claim 1 substantially as herein described with reference to any one of Figures 1 to 44 or 46 to 52.~~
42. ~~A method of fixing or releasing a first element and a second element, substantially as herein described with reference to Figures 50 and 51.~~

